

REMARKS

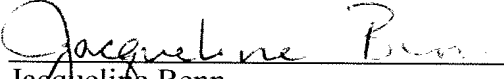
Claims 176-179 are pending, and are subject to a species election requirement. The Examiner has indicated that claim 176 is generic, and that applicant is required to elect for examination purposes one of the allegedly patentably distinct species of branch set forth in each of claims 177-179.

Applicants elect for examination purposes the species of branch set forth in claim 179. This species of branch is encompassed by claims 176 and 179.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

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Respectfully submitted,


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